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PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/536,559
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

PATENT
NON-FINAL

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A combined oil control ring ~~consists~~
consisting of:

an oil ring body which is integrally formed of upper and lower rails which bring outer peripheral surfaces thereof into slide contact with an inner surface of a cylinder and a web which connects said upper and lower rails and includes a plurality of windows, and

a coil expander which pushes said oil ring body in the direction toward said inner surface of said cylinder, said coil expander being housed in an inner-peripheral groove portion of said oil ring body,

wherein projecting portions which extend toward a center line in the thickness direction are formed at inner peripheral sides in the radial direction than a position where an axial distance between inner peripheries of said inner-peripheral groove portion of said oil ring body becomes maximum,

wherein the axial distance between inner-peripheries of said inner-peripheral groove portion of the oil ring body is smaller than a maximum distance L2, in an inner portion than the position of L2,

and wherein a minimum distance L1 and the maximum distance L2 satisfy a relationship of $0.03 \leq (L2-L1)/L1 \leq 0.15$, said minimum distance L1 being said axial distance between inner-peripheries of the inner-peripheral groove portion of said oil ring body.

2 - 3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The combined oil control ring according to claim 1, wherein a cross-sectional shape in the radial direction of said inner-peripheral groove portion of said oil ring body is formed of an arcuate surface.

5. (withdrawn) The combined oil control ring according to claim 1, wherein a cross-sectional shape in the radial direction of said inner-peripheral groove portion of said oil ring body includes a pair of inclined surfaces which face each other and a vertical surface in the axial direction which connects both inclined surfaces.

6. (withdrawn) The combined oil control ring according to claim 1, wherein the projecting portion is formed on only one

periphery of said inner-peripheral groove portion of said oil ring body.

7. (previously presented) The combined oil control ring according to claim 1, wherein the maximum widths in the axial direction of the projecting portions formed on upper and lower portions of said inner-peripheral groove portion of said oil ring body differ from each other.

8. (currently amended) The combined oil control ring according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the minimum distance $L1$ and an outer diameter d of said coil expander have a relationship of $0.2\text{mm} \geq L1 - d \geq -0.10\text{mm}$.

9. (previously presented) The combined oil control ring according to claim 1, wherein the projection portions are partially formed on said oil ring body in a circumferential direction.